

*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2010

# STATEMENT

## **Missouri Senate Appropriations Chair Sen. Rob Mayer Responds to U.S. Sen. McCaskill's Rash Letter Threatening State Budget**

“Members of the Missouri Senate are aware of the difficulties we face in order to continue to fund the critical functions of government. This is the second year in a row revenue has decreased. Our income tax and sales tax collections are down – our total revenue is down more than 10 percent from last year. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has failed to produce any positive change to our state’s economy.

We must not forget that what Sen. McCaskill refers to as federal stimulus funding is taxpayer dollars. The choice to spend those dollars was in the hands of Congress. Those dollars added to our national debt and must be paid back by the taxpayers, and unfortunately, most likely our children and grandchildren.

Congress approved those dollars not because of Missouri, but because of state’s that had completely mismanaged taxpayer funds and were on the brink of collapse – of greatest note – California.

In Missouri, we have used those taxpayer dollars sent to us by Congress for our operating budget so that Missourians would not be footing the bill to fill other states’ budget gaps.

But we also have our eyes wide open to the fact that the taxpayer dollars Congress spent and sent to the states will run out. And regardless of federal stimulus funding, we will have a balanced budget. We know that such funding is never guaranteed nor is such a budget model for Missouri desirable or sustainable. That is why we will continue to make the difficult choices to approve a state operating budget that only spends the money we have on hand – a process that is a far cry from Congress.

Sen. McCaskill asks what we will cut. The state budget is an ongoing process. But I will remind her that in the state’s last budget crisis, we made tough decisions across the board that allowed us to continue to fully fund our top budget priority – education. And, in this budget crisis, we will strive to do the same.”

-Sen. Rob Mayer  
Senate Appropriations Chairman

###

